

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for performing a search, comprising:

obtaining selection of one or more ~~words~~ groups of characters in a document currently accessed by a user, the obtaining comprising:

highlighting the one or more groups of characters in the document, and

selecting a search object while the one or more groups of characters are

highlighted in the document;

generating a search query using the selected one or more ~~words~~ groups of characters in response to selecting the search object;

retrieving search results based on the search query; and

presenting the search results to the user.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the obtaining selection~~ includes:

~~detecting a pointer click or highlighting action, and~~

~~identifying the one or more words based on the pointer click or highlighting action~~

the search object is located in at least one of a menu or toolbar.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the obtaining selection includes:

receiving selection of a single ~~word~~ group of characters in the document.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the generating a search query includes:

using the selected ~~word~~ group of characters as a search term for the search query.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the obtaining selection includes: receiving selection of a phrase in the document.

6. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein the generating a search query includes: using the selected phrase as a single search term for the search query.

7. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein the generating a search query includes: identifying words in the selected phrase, and creating the search query by combining the identified words.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the generating a search query further includes:

discarding those of the identified words from the search query that are unnecessary for obtaining relevant search results.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the obtaining selection includes:
receiving selection of a paragraph in the document.
10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the generating a search query includes:
determining textual concepts in the selected paragraph, and
creating the search query from the determined textual concepts.
11. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the determining textual
concepts includes:
using one of a summarization technique [[and]] or a vector space model to identify the
textual concepts.
12. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the generating a search query includes:
using the selected paragraph as a search term for the search query.
13. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the using the selected paragraph
includes:
discarding stop words in the selected paragraph from the search query.
14. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the obtaining selection includes:
receiving selection of the entire document.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the generating a search query includes:

determining textual concepts in the document, and
generating the search query from the determined textual concepts.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the determining textual concepts includes:

using one of a summarization technique [[and]] or a vector space model to identify the textual concepts.

17. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the generating a search query includes:

using the selected document as a search term for the search query.

18. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the retrieving search results includes:
generating a request based on the search query,
sending the request to a server connected to a network, and
receiving the search results from the server.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the server includes at least one of a search engine [[and]] or a hierarchical directory.

20. (currently amended) A system for performing a search, comprising:

means for receiving selection of one or more ~~words~~ groups of characters in a document currently displayed to a user in response to the one or more groups of characters in the document being highlighted and a search object being selected while the one or more groups of characters in the document are highlighted;

means for generating a search query using the selected one or more words;

means for obtaining search results based on the search query; and

means for providing the search results to the user.

21. (currently amended) A system for facilitating performance of a search, comprising:

a browser configured to retrieve a document and present the document to a user; and

a browser assistant configured to detect selection of one or more ~~words~~ groups of characters in the document in response to the one or more groups of characters in the document being highlighted and a search object being selected while the one or more groups of characters in the document are highlighted, generate a search query from the selected one or more ~~words~~ groups of characters, retrieve search results based on the search query, and present the search results to the user.

22. (currently amended) A web browser embodied in a computer-readable medium, comprising:

instructions for identifying a document;

instructions for obtaining selection of one or more ~~words~~ groups of characters in the document in response to the one or more groups of characters in the document being highlighted and a search object being selected while the one or more groups of characters in the document are highlighted;

instructions for generating a search query from the selected one or more ~~words~~ groups of characters;

instructions for obtaining search results based on the search query; and

instructions for providing the search results.

23. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium that stores instructions executable by at least one processor to perform a method for executing a search, comprising:

instructions for detecting selection of one or more ~~words~~ groups of characters in a document currently accessed by a user in response to the one or more groups of characters in the document being highlighted and a search object being selected while the one or more groups of characters in the document are highlighted;

instructions for generating a search query using the selected one or more ~~words~~ groups of characters;

instructions for retrieving search results based on the search query; and

instructions for presenting the search results to the user.

24. (currently amended) A method for performing a search in a network that includes a client and a server, comprising:

obtaining, by the client, selection of one or more ~~words~~ groups of characters in a document currently accessed by a user in response to the one or more groups of characters in the document being highlighted and a search object being selected while the one or more groups of characters in the document are highlighted;

generating, by the client, a search query using the selected one or more ~~words~~ groups of characters;

generating, by the server, search results based on the search query;

obtaining, by the client, the search results from the server; and

presenting, by the client, the search results to the user.

25. (original) A method for prefetching documents associated with a search, comprising:

identifying a document that includes one or more links, each of the links corresponding to a linked document;

analyzing each of the links in the document;

determining a score for each of the links; and

prefetching a number of the linked documents corresponding to a number of the links based on the determined scores.

26. (original) The method of claim 25, wherein the document includes a web page.

27. (original) The method of claim 25, wherein the document includes a list of links or a hierarchical directory.

28. (original) The method of claim 25, further comprising:
receiving selection of one of the links in the document;
determining whether the selected link corresponds to one of the prefetched documents,
and
providing the one prefetched document when the selected link corresponds to the one prefetched document.

29. (original) The method of claim 28, further comprising:
retrieving the linked document corresponding to the selected link from a server when the selected link does not correspond to one of the prefetched documents.

30. (original) The method of claim 25, further comprising:
performing an address lookup for a number of the links.

31. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein the prefetching includes:
using the address lookup to prefetch the linked documents corresponding to the number of the links.

32. (original) The method of claim 25, wherein the prefetching includes:
prefetching the linked documents corresponding to all of the links in the document.

33. (original) The method of claim 25, wherein the determining a score includes:
for each of the linked documents, determining scores for one or more linking documents
that contain links to the linked document,
determining a score for each of the linked documents based on the scores of the one or
more linking documents, and
associating the determined scores for the linked documents with the corresponding links.

34. (original) The method of claim 25, wherein the determining a score includes:
determining a clickthrough rate for each of the linked documents,
determining a score for each of the linked documents based on the determined
clickthrough rates, and
associating the determined scores for the linked documents with the corresponding links.

35. (original) The method of claim 25, wherein the determining a score includes:
determining a popularity of each of the linked documents,
determining a score for each of the linked documents based on the determined popularity,
and
associating the determined scores for the linked documents with the corresponding links.

36. (original) The method of claim 35, wherein the determining a popularity includes:

for each of the linked documents, determining a popularity of a web site containing the linked document, and

associating the popularity of the web site to the linked document.

37. (original) The method of claim 25, wherein the determining a score includes:

receiving a query from a user,

determining a score for each of the linked documents using the received query, and

associating the determined scores for the linked documents with the corresponding links.

38. (original) The method of claim 37, wherein the determining a score for each of the linked documents includes:

for each of the linked documents, comparing the query with contents of the linked document, and

determining a score for the linked document based on a degree of match between the query and the contents of the linked document.

39. (original) The method of claim 25, wherein the determining a score includes:

receiving input from a user,

determining a score for each of the linked documents based on the received input, and

associating the determined scores for the linked documents with the corresponding links.

40. (original) The method of claim 39, wherein the determining a score for each of the linked documents includes:

for each of the linked documents, comparing one or more words of the received input with contents of the linked document, and

determining a score for the linked document based on a degree of match between the one or more words and the contents of the linked document.

41. (original) The method of claim 25, wherein the prefetching includes:
retrieving the linked documents with scores of the corresponding links above a predetermined threshold.

42. (original) A system for prefetching documents associated with a search, comprising:

a browser configured to retrieve a document that includes one or more links, each of the links corresponding to a linked document; and

a browser assistant configured to identify each of the links in the document, determine a score for each of the identified links, and prefetch a number of the linked documents corresponding to a number of the identified links based on the determined scores.

43. (currently amended) A web browser embodied in a computer-readable medium, comprising:

instructions for identifying a document that includes one or more links, each of the links

corresponding to a linked document;

instructions for identifying each of the links in the document;

instructions for determining a score for each of the identified links; and

instructions for prefetching the linked documents corresponding to a number of the identified links based on the determined scores.

44. (original) A computer-readable medium that stores instructions executable by at least one processor to perform a method for prefetching documents associated with a search, comprising:

instructions for obtaining search results that include one or more links, each of the links corresponding to a linked document;

instructions for analyzing each of the links;

instructions for determining a score for each of the links; and

instructions for prefetching the linked documents corresponding to a number of the links based on the determined scores.

45. (original) A method for prefetching documents associated with a search in a network that includes a client and a plurality of servers, comprising:

requesting, by the client, a document that includes one or more links, each of the links corresponding to a linked document;

providing, by one of the servers, the requested document to the client;

analyzing, by the client, each of the links in the requested document;

determining, by the client, a score for each of the links;
requesting, by the client, a number of the linked documents corresponding to a number of the links based on the determined scores; and
providing, by one or more of the servers, the requested linked documents to the client.

46. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for supplementing a document with links to related documents, comprising:
analyzing a document to identify one or more pieces of information;
determining a link to a related document for each of the identified pieces of information by performing a search of a set of documents based on each of the identified pieces of information; and
adding the links to the document.

47. (currently amended) The method of claim 46, wherein the pieces of information include at least one of a name, a product, a publication, [[and]] or a key phrase.

48. (original) The method of claim 47, wherein when the pieces of information include one or more names, the determining a link includes:
for each of the names, identifying one or more related documents that include a link associated with the name, and
determining one or more links corresponding to the identified documents.

49. (currently amended) The method of claim 47, wherein when the pieces of information include information regarding one or more products, the determining a link includes:
for each of the products, identifying one or more related documents associated with at least one of a producer, a seller, [[and]] or a review of the product, and
determining one or more links corresponding to the identified documents.

50. (original) The method of claim 47, wherein when the pieces of information include information regarding one or more publications, the determining a link includes:
for each of the publications, identifying one or more related documents that include the publication, and
determining one or more links corresponding to the identified documents.

51. (original) The method of claim 47, wherein when the pieces of information include one or more key phrases, the determining a link includes:
for each of the key phrases, identifying one or more related documents that include the key phrase, and
determining one or more links corresponding to the identified documents.

52. (original) The method of claim 46, wherein the determining a link includes:
sending each of the identified pieces of information to a server, and
receiving a link corresponding to each of the identified pieces of information from the server.

53. (currently amended) The method of claim 46, wherein ~~the determining a link~~
~~includes:~~
~~generating a search query containing one or more of the identified pieces of information,~~
~~sending the search query to a search engine or hierarchical directory, and~~
~~receiving one or more links corresponding to the one or more identified pieces of~~
~~information from the search engine or hierarchical directory~~ the search is performed using one of
a search engine or a hierarchical directory.

54. (original) The method of claim 46, wherein the adding the links includes:
modifying the document to include the links.

55. (original) The method of claim 46, wherein the adding the links includes:
providing a separate document that includes the links.

56. (currently amended) A system for supplementing a document with links to
related documents, comprising:
a browser configured to identify a document; and
a browser assistant configured to
analyze the document to identify one or more pieces of information,
determine a link to a related document for each of the identified pieces of
information by performing a search of a set of documents based on each of the identified pieces

of information, and

provide the determined links with the document.

57. (currently amended) A web browser embodied in a computer-readable medium, comprising:

instructions for identifying a document;

instructions for analyzing the document to identify one or more pieces of information;

instructions for determining a link to a related document for each of the identified pieces of information by performing a search of a set of documents based on each of the identified pieces of information;

instructions for presenting the document with the determined links to a user.

58. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium that stores instructions executable by at least one processor to perform a method for supplementing a document with links to related documents, comprising:

instructions for identifying one or more pieces of information in the document;

instructions for determining a link to a related document for each of the identified pieces of information by performing a search of a set of documents using each of the identified pieces of information; and

instructions for providing the determined links with the document.

59. (currently amended) A method for supplementing a document with links to related documents in a network that includes a client and a server, comprising:

requesting, by the client, a document;

providing, by the server, the requested document to the client;

analyzing, by the client, the requested document to identify one or more pieces of information;

determining, by the client, a link to a related document for each of the identified pieces of information by performing a search of a set of documents based on each of the identified pieces of information; and

modifying, by the client, the requested document to include the links.

60. (currently amended) A hypertext browser assistant embodied in a computer-readable medium, comprising:

instructions for detecting selection of one or more words in a document currently accessed by a user;

instructions for generating a search query using the selected one or more words;

instructions for retrieving a document based on the search query;

instructions for identifying one or more pieces of information in the document;

instructions for determining a link to a related document for each of the identified pieces of information by performing a search of a set of documents based on each of the identified pieces of information;

instructions for adding the links to the document;

instructions for prefetching a number of the related documents corresponding to a number of the links; and

instructions for presenting the document to the user.

61. (currently amended) A method for facilitating a search, comprising:
detecting selection of one or more words in a document currently accessed by a user;
generating a search query using the selected one or more words;
retrieving a document based on the search query, the document including one or more links corresponding to a linked document;
analyzing each of the links;
prefetching a number of the linked documents corresponding to a number of the links;
presenting the document to the user;
receiving selection of one of the links;
retrieving the linked document corresponding to the selected link;
identifying one or more pieces of information in the retrieved document;
determining a link to a related document for each of the identified pieces of information by performing a search of a set of documents based on each of the identified pieces of information; and
providing the determined links with the related document to the user.